



Captain's Call



Navy Announces New Sport Bike Rider Course

The Naval Safety Center (NSC) and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation unveiled the new military sport bike course (MSBC) designed specifically for high-performance motorcycles.

Sport bikes, many weighing in less than 450 pounds and producing up to 190 horsepower, are built for speed and high maneuverability. It's estimated that 94 percent of traffic fatalities occurred among first year riders, who average 24 years old.



According to the NSC, there are approximately 25,000 Sailors and Marines licensed to drive motorcycles; of those nearly 12,500 ride sport bikes. With 32 motorcycle fatalities this fiscal year, 30 involving sport bikes, it is easy to see why the Navy takes this issue seriously.

The MSBC began in fleet concentration areas earlier this month, including San Diego, Camp Lejeune, N.C., and Jacksonville, Fla., and is expected to spread rapidly throughout Navy and Marine Corps installations world-wide. The vision for the MSBC for 2009 is a full service contract where trainer motorcycles are available to all interested riders, so service members can make a more informed decision before purchasing their own motorcycle.

The one-day, eight-hour course, focuses on the speed and cornering characteristics of sport bikes with three hours of classroom instruction followed by four hours of range exercise. Students are able to apply the skills they have just learned under strict supervision in a controlled atmosphere. The MSBC is limited to 12 students per class. For more information on motorcycle safety and this course, visit www.safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle/motorcycle.